(b) to (d) There is no proposal to amend the Indian Penal Code and Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Child labour in carpet and glass industry

171. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of child labour is still working in Carpet and Glass Industry in the country in violation of the rules and laws made for their protection and safeguard;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not protecting the children; and

(c) the steps taken being taken by Union Government to achieve complete eradication of the child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) As per 2001 Census, 32,647 children in the age group of 5-14 years are working in Carpet industry and 5,758 children in Glass industry. Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, Government is following a sequential approach of first covering children working in hazardous occupations/processes. For the elimination of child labour, Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 250 districts of the country. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from hazardous work are put into Special Schools, where they are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc., before they are mainstreamed into regular education system. State Governments are the appropriate Government for implementation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 for the areas coming under their jurisdiction.

Difference between daily wages provided to men and women

†172. SHRIMATI SUSHMASWARAJ: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that according to the National Sample. Survey Organization (NSSO) there is difference between daily wages provided to men and women in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the difference between the wages and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made to ensure that women also get daily wages equal to men?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The difference of wages between women and men in the rural areas is Rs. 59.40. The average wage of woman and man per day are Rs. 85.53 and Rs. 144.93 respectively in rural area. This disparity in wages could be attributed to existing social norms and practices as well as inadequate accounting of the overall work output of women in rural areas.

(c) The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for payment of equal remuneration to men

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and women for the same work or work of a similar nature without any discrimination. This Act is implemented by the respective State Governments for the areas under their jurisdiction and monitored by the Central Government. The State Governments are also addressed from time to time to ensure .strict compliance of the provisions of the Act. For the areas under the Central Governments, the Act is implemented by the office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). In addition, there is no discrimination in wages on gender basis under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. This Act provides for fixation and revision of minimum rates of wages in employments.

Social security to unemployed muslims

173**.** SHRIABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOURAND EMPLOYMENT pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken/propose to take steps to provide social security to the unemployed persons, most particularly the muslims, in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to cover all those who could not be provided employment within a specific period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) There is a dedicated Ministry *viz.* Ministry of Minority Affairs to look after the funding of programmes and projects for the welfare of minorities including unemployed muslims. This Ministry is also having the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation under its jurisdiction to finance schemes for the welfare of minorities.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 has been enacted to guarantee hundred days of employment in a year to any rural household including unemployed muslims.

A large number of benefits are extended under various social welfare schemes formulated by the Government for unemployed persons including muslims. Whilst formulating these welfare schemes, Government takes into account the needs and concerns of ail the communities including the minorities.

Deteriorating condition of labourers working in unorganised sector

tl74. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOURAND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers working in organised as well as unorganised sector separately in the country;

(b) whether his Ministry has made any assessment of the deteriorating condition of labourers in the unorganised sector; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken to improve the condition of labourers in unorgansied sector in the existing scheme?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.